

NEWSLETTER OF THE TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

Annual subscription \$5.00

Single copies 50 cents

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FORWARD PROGRAMME

- Sat. May 17 -Junee Ridge - exploration of newly found shafts
(with draft!) - only a couple of minutes off main
track. Contact: Diana Davies
- Wed. May 21 -COMMITTEE MEETING, 8 p.m. at 7 Rupert Avenue,
New Town.
- Sat. May 24 -Trapdoor Swallet - this time we'll get in the
entrance, come hell or highwater! Contact: Stuart
Nicholas
- Tues. 27 to
Fri. 30 May
incl. -Scientific programme of Australian Sports Medicine
-Conference. Don't forget the public lectures on
the Tuesday and Thursday nights.
- Wed. June 4 -General Meeting - 8 p.m. at 7 Rupert Avenue.
Bring your slides, etc. for a good night's enter-
tainment.
- Fri.(evening)
6 to Sun. 8
June (incl.) -SARSYM 80 - Beresford House, Pitt Avenue, Trevallyn.
Be there! More details inside.
- Wed. June 18 -COMMITTEE MEETING - 8 p.m. at 7 Rupert Avenue,
New Town.
- Wed. July 2 -General Meeting - ditto for time and place!

Other caves and areas worthy of near future visits include The
Chairman, Khazad-dum (top section intro. trip), area near top of
slip on Wherretts Lookout, Slaughterhouse Pot, plus any others
anyone wants to go to!

EDITORIAL

A recent visit by A.S.F. president, Ken Lance, highlighted the
good fortunes of Tasmanian cavers. We apparently have more caves
covering a greater range of "types" and more easily accessible
than most places in Australia. We are also fortunate in that
conservation is not generally a great problem with the exception
of the Mole Creek area where some of the very unique formation
caves suffer. This is often due to over-use rather than inten-
tional vandalism.

Why do we keep going back to the same caves over and again? What
is the great appeal of these systems? For that matter, what is the
appeal of caving (or climbing or any other similar sport)? If
the answer to these questions was known, man would have learnt a
great deal about the human mind. Perhaps he should concentrate on
his own mind instead of wondering what the other guy is thinking.

S A R S Y M 8 0
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As mentioned in last month's Spiel, this year's symposium is the third to be held and promises to be the most successful and productive yet. Unfortunately, Dr. Peter Hackett and Dr. Peter Steele are both returning to the U.S.A. immediately after the Sports Medicine Conference and hence will be unable to attend SARYSM 80 as planned. However, two local speakers will be present in the form of Dr. Kevin Doran and Mr Bill Tomalin, both of whom will be attending and speaking at the A.S.M.F. Conference.

The basic programme is shown below. Note that it is requested that you arrive at the venue early on the Friday evening, if possible, as the programme starts at around 7.30 p.m. with an equipment display and discussion. For those not attending the A.S.M.F. Conference, a major agenda item for the Saturday will be a discussion of the information presented at the Conference as pertaining to Tasmanian S & R Situations.

If you are at all interested in Search and Rescue, meeting others with similar interests from all around the State and having an enjoyable and informative weekend, I urge you to attend SARYSM 80. It is in your own interest to learn as much as possible about the practical and administrative aspects of Search and Rescue in Tasmania.

Dates: June 6 (evening) and weekend June 7 & 8

Venue: Beresford House, Pitt Avenue, Trevallyn, Launceston.

Cost: \$10 - this includes 2 nights accommodation and meals except for Saturday night which will be a "social evening"

Basic Programme:

Friday June 6 - 7.30pm: Display of gear from Allgoods and others. Registration of persons for SARYSM 80.

Saturday June 7: Main business sessions. Probably a "mass meeting" in morning with smaller workshop discussion groups after lunch. Evening: socialising

Sunday June 8: Morning: practical demos. and exercises in Cataract Gorge. For this session, SRT cavers (and maybe ladder exponents as well) are needed to show off their skills and gear to the assembled multitude. This means you!

For further information contact Stuart Nicholas, Ph: 28 3054(AH) or Bob Cockerill, Ph: 44 1836 (AH).

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Just published:-

Check-List of
AUSTRALIAN CAVES AND KARST

1979

4000 caves

73 pages

\$ 6.00 To ASF Members

\$10.00 To Approved Outside Buyers

Plus Postage if applicable:

Single copy: 45¢

Bulk: Based on 195g per copy

Obtainable through your club only

Contact Chris Davies (with your money in your hand) if you want one and we will bulk order.

A.S.F. News

The Secretary (Chris) holds minutes of ASF committee meetings, annual reports, etc. Just for general info. the following is a summary of recently received ASF circulars:-

1. Australian Cavelife Photographic Competition: \$100.00 cash will be awarded to a photograph of any form of cave fauna or flora of biospeleological interest and photographic excellence. Check the conditions of entry and start looking for that possible winning picture.
2. Report on the Incorporation of the ASF: requirements, costs and benefits of incorporating the ASF as an association or non profit company.
3. ASF Committee Meeting - Buchan: Reports on cave safety, caves handbook, conservation issues, etc. See Motion 11; letters to be written by ASF and member societies to the Tas. Minister for National Parks commending the initiative taken by his Department re. Gordon-Franklin systems as well as letters to the Premier opposing the proposals.

You can help with cave conservation issues in other States by writing similar letters, so check Motions 10 - 15.

Di Davies.

Cave
... CONVICT ...
1980

The 13th Biennial Conference
of the Australian Speleological Federation

CAVE CONVICT will be held at Pharmacy College, Parkville, Melbourne from 27th Dec. to 31st Dec. 1980. Accommodation and speleosports are both within a short walking distance of this venue.

ACCOMMODATION: This will be at International House, Parkville. Participants in CAVE CONVICT are encouraged to live in to obtain full benefits from the conference. Special arrangements for families will be made to ease the financial pressure for this group. Child minding facilities will be available throughout the conference. Student discounts will be available on presentation of a union card. All meals are provided in accommodation costs.

CALL FOR PAPERS: Six sessions are currently programmed. Parellel timetabling will be avoided if possible. Topics to be presented as seminars include Biology, Geology and Geomorphology, Surveying and mapping, Conservation and management, Hydrology, Karst regions and expedition reports, Anthropology, and more. As well as the speleological topics, sporting cavers should be well catered for with a variety of symposia and workshops on Search and Rescue, caving techniques, photography, etc.

Persons wishing to present a formal seminar paper, or become actively involved in a symposia topic, should contact the organising committee without delay, particularly if you are an active sporting caver.

FIELD TRIPS: These will be held immediately after the conference, and will include all Victorian caving localities. Caves in Victoria are very diversified in their nature, occuring in hard Devonian limestone such as at Buchan, Limestone Ck., etc., Tertiary dune limestone as at Bat Ridges, granite at Labertouche, and the lava tunnels of the Western District.

Further details of trips will occur in later news releases. Please note that advance bookings will be required on some trips.

COSTS: Costs are still being finalized, and will be contained in the booking forms which will be distributed soon. The committee is trying to keep prices to a reasonable level, so that YOU can come to CAVE CONVICT.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION: It has been decided not to limit entries only to those photographs and slides taken since WACCON, but rather to set the condition that entries must not have been exhibited in any previous ASF competitions. The competition has been divided into the following categories:-

- A. Monochrome prints - minimum size is 25.4cm x 20.3cm (8" x 10")
 - A.1. Scenic: surface karst, cave passages and chambers, etc.
 - A.2. Scientific: biological, geological, etc.
 - A.3. Speleothems and other pretties.
 - A.4. Action and techniques (underground)
- B. Colour prints - minimum size is 17.8cm x 12.7cm (5" x 7")
 - B.1. to B.4. are as for monochrome prints.
- C. Colour 35mm slides
 - C.1. to C.4. as above.
 - C.5. Story series: a series of two to ten slides showing a sequence of events and accompanied by explanatory notes. Each series counts as one entry only.
 - C.6. Humourous.

Place your entry in the category that you feel is most appropriate.

Please contact the organizing committee if you have any further queries concerning CAVE CONVICT, or can offer any worthwhile suggestions as to how this can be-

CAVE CONVICT: THE CONFERENCE FOR CAVERS!

Address: Box 5425CC, G.P.O., Melbourne, Vic. 3001.

(The editor will keep you informed as more info. comes to hand.)

TRIP REPORTS:

19th April, 1980 - Growling Swallet

S. Nicholas, K. Lance

After Stuart having attacked several recently fallen trees on the track with a chain saw, we arrived at the entrance. The "growling" was audible some distance away from the cave and Stuart pronounced that it was "up a bit today". The rain had eased by now, just in time to let the Swallet take over the drenching process. Whilst donning various layers of wool, rainproofs, etc. I was struck again by the contrast with caving in W.A. when a trog suit and jocks suffices me on most occasions.

Following the stream into the gaping cleft with some trepidation, I was impressed immediately by the rushing water - both the volume of it and the noise it made. I found it all a bit off-putting, as it was totally unlike anything I had ever experienced before. I had to really concentrate on what I was doing ("We can't go down there", surely" was my first thought - but we did).

It soon become apparent that the properties of the sharply corroded limestone mercifully had far more in common with the Exmouth and Kimberley varieties than the aeolian calcarenites of South west W.A. Thin ledges and nobbles which looked like excellent hand and footholds, actually were - mostly! At one point

where the main flow tumbled through a narrowly downcut section into a deep pool, so did Stuart. This bit was evidently somewhat weaker than the rest. Stuart wasn't hurt much, apart from the indignity of it all. I retrieved his gloves and we continued.

Walking in the stream bed was made considerably easier as the brown rounded cobbles were not slippery. I presumed this was because we were far from any light which would allow algae to grow.

Some distance into the cave, I obeyed Stuart's instruction to turn out my cap lamp and look up. I let out a whoop of delight as a whole milky way of glow-worms zapped me with their blue luminescent rear ends. The roof and walls were absolutely streaked with them. This was really tremendous - definitely a highlight of my Tasmanian visit as I had only ever seen the beasties once before, in Cevrai Bat Cave near Kempsey.

Stuart and I didn't descend to the sump, but retraced our steps just before it. After a bit of stuffing around, including a couple of wrong turns, we arrived back at the surface about 2½ hours after entering. On the way back to the car a few more fallen logs were assaulted.

Back at Maydena, I asked Max Jeffries about the pack-horse trail which runs past Growling Swallet. He said it was cut in 1938 by Mr McCallum under contract to ANM in the early days of their activities. (Mr McCallum had just died a few weeks previously at Maydena, aged 99.) The trail went from the Adamsfield Track to a settlement about 12km into the Florentine Valley. Max recalled how, when he was 16 with a work party he had cycled from town to where the new track began, walked to the creek near Growling Swallet and camped there for about three weeks. He spoke of the group losing toothbrushes, toothpaste and soap kept on a normally dry rock near the entrance when, after heavy rain, the creek rose quickly in about an hour.

After a pleasant time yarning with Max about this and other topics, Stuart and I headed for Hobart.

Ken Lance.

No, not another classified ad. from Stuart Nicholas.

Mole Creek Area - 25 and 26 April, 1980

Chris and Di Davies (leaders), Sam Steane, Nick Hume

It was a pleasant drive from Hobart through green pastures littered with mushrooms, etc. etc. to seek friendly advice from ranger Bob Cooper at Maracoopa. Bob's warnings and clag on the neighbouring tiers, bade ill for dry cavers. However, we finally steeled ourselves for high adventure and set off for Maracoopa I!!

It was fairly easy going beyond the garby zone and we eventually connected to Maracoopa II over a slump. The passages in "II" are narrow and a bit slow though the cave is long and has an interesting higher level chamber.

Friday evening was pleasantly spent fighting off a persistent bat in front of a roaring fire at the NCC hut. Groaning floorboards and sundry mysterious sounds stirred our imaginations throughout the night. Very nice place really. Its museum of "empties" is particularly noteworthy.

Another latish start Saturday, and on to Croesus for some "phony-graphs". A lovely wet start to a cave I must say! Our awed gaping was interspersed with some high pitched singing in the

deeper sections of the stream. Di directed the photography with Sam and Chris on lighting.

Unfortunately the author succumbed to the uncommonly common outbreak of "cavers' cholera" experienced on recent trips. (Probably due to eating tinned instead of fresh mushrooms!! - ed.) This could cause a bit of a stink.

A brave effort was made to continue on to Lynds Cave, but alas this ended in apathy and a billy of tea under the bridge on the Mersey.

Nick Hume.

Florentine Valley - Trapdoor Swallet - Friday, 25 April

Party: Peter Shaw, Stuart Nicholas

Thoughts of a major breakthrough.....several weeks of fairly dry weather.....Peter keen to go caving again. It all added up to, well.....not much really! This, the fifth trip to the cave, would hopefully see us below the blockage three or four metres inside the entrance.

Armed with a Tirfor winch, various slings, rope, a ladder and plenty of enthusiasm, we trogged through the wet forest (it had rained most of the week), past Growling Swallet, Pendant Pot and Slaughterhouse Pot to the cave in question. Newly fallen trees in the doline made access a little difficult but after gearing up and investigating the "main" entrance, we quickly decided that drowning was not a very good idea at that stage and retreated to the surface. The water was pouring down a man-sized slot - the consequences of trying to get through this were obvious!

Remodelling and landscaping another entrance a few metres away enabled both of us to get in while staying comparatively dry. Stuart spent some time passing rocks up to Peter and generally modifying the hole to gain access to another narrow slot. This also proved fruitless as I was not very keen on having my rib-cage crushed by rock movement while negotiating the slot. Further work in the hole would enable easier access. Total depth gain this trip was approximately one metre!!

Two or three hours were spent poking around the sides of the doline and further up the right hand branch of the gully to no real avail, although a few collapsed holes were found in the right steep side of the doline and some limestone cliffs further up the gully.

Stuart Nicholas.
